

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MELBOU 01818 300356Z
ACTION PM-05

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E O 11652 N A
TAGS OCLR
SUBJ: USN SHIP VISITS TO VICTORIA AND SOUTH AUSTRALIA

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION CANBERRA INFO CINCPAC POLAD CINCPACFLT COM-
SEVENTHFLT FROM MELBOURNE 23 AUG 77 R 230230Z AUG 77

QTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MELBOURNE 1818

FOR CAPTAIN SUTHERLIN FROM CONSUL GENERAL BRAND

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E O 11652 N A
TAGS OCLR
SUBJ: USN SHIP VISITS TO VICTORIA AND SOUTH AUSTRALIA

1. WITH REGARD TO YOUR REQUEST FOR REACTIONS
TO THE PROPOSED USN SHIP VISITS AT THE END OF SEPT,
I HAVE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

A. USS SOMERS, DDG 34, 339 MEN IN ADELAIDE SEPT 25-29.
I CALLED OUR US CONSULAR AGENT FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA,
BILL MCGOVERN, WHO WAS ENTHUSIASTIC AT PROPOSAL THAT A
USN VESSEL VISIT ADELAIDE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY
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YEARS. HE LIVES NEXT DOOR TO NOIC SOUTH AUSTRALIA, COMMANDER
PHILIP MULCARE, AND KNOWS HIM WELL. MULCARE IS
NOW OUT OF TOWN BUT MCGOVERN AND HE CAN EASILY WORK OUT
DETAILS ONCE MULCARE IS BACK IN ADELAIDE. SINCE MCGOVERN IS ALSO
PRESIDENT OF AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND
IS ON EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF AMCHAM SOUTH AUSTRALIA HE IS IN EXCELLENT
POSITION TO ORGANIZE HOSPITALITY FOR VISIT OF USS SOMERS. I

TOLD MCGOVERN WE WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH WHEN VISIT IS FIR.

B. USS BENJAMIN STODDERT, DDG 22, 338 MEN PLUS STAFF OF
COMMANDER DESTROYER SQUADRON IN MELBOURNE SEPT 26-30.
I CALLED NOIC VICTORIA COMMODORE DACRE SMYTH WHO SAID
HMAS MELBOURNE AND SEVERAL SUPPORTING SHIPS OF RAN WILL
BE IN MELBOURNE AT THAT TIME. HE WOULD THEREFORE WELCOME
ON USN SHIP DURING AUSTRALIAN FLEET'S VISIT; BUT HE FELT TWO
AMERICAN SHIPS MIGHT BE CROWDING HOSPITALITY CALENDAR
SOMEWHAT. I ASKED HIM ABOUT FEASIBILITY OF PUTTING ONE OF
THE TWO SHIPS INTO PORTLAND WHICH, INCIDENTALLY, IS WHERE
HE WAS BORN AND GREW UP. HIS COMMENTS ARE IN FOLLOWING
PARA C.

C. USS RICHARD S EDWARDS, DD 950, 315 MEN. NOIC VICTORIA THOUGHT
SENDING USS EDWARDS TO PORTLAND WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT IDEA. HE SAID
PORTLAND IS PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF TAKING SHIP THAT SIZE AND THAT
BERTH WOULD BE AVAILABLE DURING THAT TIME. HE SAID THAT IF
VISIT TO PORTLAND APPROVED, HIS OFFICE WOULD HANDLE
CONTACT WITH PORT AUTHORITIES BUT ASKED THAT I MAKE
ARRANGEMENTS WITH CIVIL AUTHORITIES. ON BASIS MY KNOWLEDGE OF
VICTORIA AND SOUTH AUSTRALIA I AM SURE THAT VISIT OF USN SHIP TO
PORTLAND WOULD BE WARMLY WELCOMED BY PEOPLE OF WESTERN
VICTORIA AND SOUTH EASTERN SOUTH AUSTRALIA, FOR
WHICH AREA PORTLAND IS THE PRINCIPAL HARBOR AND ECONOMIC
CENTER. INCIDENTALLY, THIS IS EXTREMELY BEAUTIFUL AREA
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OF RICH FARMLAND AND ATTRACTIVE SMALL CITIES, WITH MANY
TOURIST ATTRACTIONS, SO THAT CREW SHOULD FIND IT A REAL
TREAT TO VISIT THERE. IT SHOULD ALSO BE KEPT IN MIND THAT
THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VICTORIA IS REPRESENTED IN
FEDERAL PARLIAMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE RIGHT HONORABLE J
MALCOLM FRASER, MP, WHO MIGHT WELL APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO
WELCOME A USN VESSEL TO HIS DISTRICT.

2. UPON CONSULTING CALENDAR I NOTE THAT SEPT 25 IS A
SUNDAY. I DO NOT HAVE ANY IDEA WHETHER STEAMING TIMES WOULD
PERMIT VARIATION OF PROPOSED SCHEDULE, BUT IT OCCURS TO ME
THAT IF SHIPS COULD ARRIVE IN ADELAIDE AND PORTLAND ON
SATURDAY, SEPT 24, THERE WOULD BE MAXIMUM OPPORTUNITY
FOR PUBLIC TO VISIT DURING WEEKEND AND TO ENTERTAIN CREW
ON SUBSEQUENT DAYS.

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